

Supervisor Reflects on 2016 (December Article)

As my first year comes to an end as Town Supervisor I wish to thank all the Town Elected Officials, employees and citizens that have helped make 2016 a very successful year.

Starting with my first budget, the Town was able to continue services while staying under the tax cap. Staying under the cap, which was less than a 1 percent increase in spending allowed every tax payer, on average to receive a rebate check of around \$300.00. While some of the other Towns were going over the tax cap, and one town even possibly becoming insolvent; the Town Board and Department Heads were diligent with the budget and actually finishing the year with a surplus.

The public safety building pricing came in under budget and construction has started. The building will be finished on schedule this summer. By the end of 2017 the State Police, Erie County Sheriffs and Clarence Court's will be operating in the building. Over 50 law enforcement officers will be calling the Clarence Public Safety Building home.

Highway Superintendent Jamie Dussing's department resurfaced over five and a half miles of roads, cleaned and restored almost seven miles of ditches and did another great job picking up brush and leaves. The highway department is ready to make sure our roads are clear and ice free this winter.

Parks Superintendent Jim Burkard and his crew, besides their normal up keep of over 100 acres of parklands, helped to finish the new public bathrooms at our Main Street Park. A gazebo was also added next to the Main pavilion. Many make our parks their destination for wedding photos due the picturesque surroundings of our parks.

The Planning and Zoning Department lead by Jim Callahan and Jonathan Bluer ushered through two major projects that will help guide planning in the Town for the next 15 years. Clarence 2030 Comprehensive Plan will help guide future Town Boards and Developers on projects in the Town. Vision Main Street Clarence sponsored by the Clarence Industrial Development Agency aids in future developments for Main Street. It also helps obtain grants for the betterment of Main Street.

Town Engineer Tim Lavocat and his departments has overseen the construction of the new Public Safety Building, in addition to their normal day to day operations of the code enforcement. Through Tim's diligent efforts the Town received two major grants. The first a grant to sidewalk all of Main Street which especially in the Harris Hill area opens the entire Main street corridor to pedestrian use. The second grant brings sewers to more streets in the Clarence Hollow, which is under a consent order by the DEC. The Hollow is now almost completely sewered. This was made possible through grants and cooperation with developers.

Lastly, I would like to thank my Assistant, Karen Jurek and Town Attorney, Larry Meckler for their special help in making my first year as Town Supervisor a very successful year.

Happy Holidays to everyone, and may you have a healthy and prosperous New Year.